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Sanitary report from Manila, Philippine Islands.

[No. 32.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Manila, Philippine Islands, February 24, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to make most favorable report upon the health and climate of the Philippine Islands, and so do in order to refute untrue statements found in the American press.

Being within the tropics, we, of course, have not the invigorating effects of frost, and temperature averages high. At Manila about 70.30° F., but extremes are not wide apart, and during the last year I heard of no temperature below 57° F. in the islands and none below the sixties in Manila.

Mercury in the shade rarely rises above 85° nor above 95° in the sun.

Being on the coast of a bay so large as to be almost an inland sea, and having 8 miles to the east a lake having 100 miles of shore and whose waters seek the bay through the large and rapid Pasig, the city of Manila has constant air from active waters, and this combined with sea breezes, the constant friend of islands, gives to Manila fresh air at all times.

The sewers of Manila are not good; can never be first-class, because of the low level of its area, but the rainfall is here above 10 feet per annum and quite evenly distributed, so that our streets are rain swept and the sewers well flushed almost every day. There is also an advantage in hot, wet weather in hastening the decay of vegetable or animal matter, which, when dead, soon rots and is washed away.

Our streets are liberally wet down from our city water supply, which is abundant beyond our wants, so we use it as freely as needed. This water is carried in large iron pipes about 7 miles from spring sources, and is exceptionally pure and agreeable to taste. I freely use it every day as a beverage, have never experienced ill effects therefrom, and have not been sick a minute since I left America in 1897.

In filthy quarters smallpox may be found almost any day, but few deaths result, and the destruction of some low quarters and the improved street cleaning under the present government increase health. The death rate is small and only proper living is required to enjoy life.

I have the honor to remain, your obedient servant,

O. F. WILLIAMS,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

Sanitary report from Ponce, Porto Rico.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *April 5, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following consolidated report of the operations of the Service for the month of March, 1899: Total number of vessels inspected during the month, 48; total number inspected during March, 1898 (comparative), 37.

After careful consideration, I am led to the conclusion that a disinfecting barge located in this harbor will answer the present requirements of this island. Such a barge should be fitted up in the United States, as early as practicable, upon the plan of the *Protector*.

Vessels requiring treatment can be remanded to this point in a few

hours from any port of the island. Moreover, suitable quarantine buildings are now established upon Cabras Island in this harbor, where persons can be detained under observation and their baggage disinfected.

At Ponce, incidental effects can be disinfected by means of autoclaves, etc., and an emergency camp located upon the Isla de Cardonas near by, if necessary. Ponce Harbor is not safe anchorage for a quarantine barge.

Vital statistics.—Total number of births reported in March, 1899, 60; total number reported in March, 1898 (comparative), 70; total number of deaths reported in March, 1899, 67; total number reported in March, 1898 (comparative), 74. I inclose a list of the causes of deaths, wherein it will be seen that tuberculosis leads with 11 pulmonary cases out of a total of 67, besides a number of cases concealed under other headings.

At the meeting of the board of health yesterday, I introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That in every case of consumption all rooms which have been occupied by such patients be thoroughly disinfected, scraped, and then painted or whitewashed, under the supervision of an employee of the board of health, and that a copy of this resolution be furnished to each physician practicing in the city of San Juan, who shall, upon the death or removal of a consumptive patient, immediately report the same to the board of health.

The ground floors of the walled houses upon close and narrow streets are damp, crowded, and as many as ten to fifteen people sleep in a single small room. This is due to the fact that the military authorities under the old régime compressed the population within the city walls.

During the past month the lepers have been collected in an isolated building in the rear of the city jail, and rations issued to them; also a building, the picadero, fitted up for the care of prostitutes suffering with venereal diseases.

Under the direction of Col. Van R. Hoff, the vaccine farm, near Coamo has proved a success; Maj. Azel Ames is producing over 16,000 vaccine points daily, and vaccination is being generally practiced throughout the island.

Capt. L. P. Davison, of the military board of health, has selected a small island upon the eastern coast as a leper settlement. It is named Luis Pena, and is the southwest Cay of the island of Culebra, with a channel of over a mile in width between. It has an area of 400 acres, about one-half being suitable for cultivation and grazing. I pointed this out as greatly desirable, because these unfortunates can be located in small detached cottages and cultivate patches of ground, which will prove almost self-sustaining and conducive to contentment of mind.

Municipal sanitation.—The water supply has been introduced into the city and many connections made with the sewer system. Three odorless excavators have been received from the United States and are in successful operation.

The streets are policed daily by a detail of prisoners under guards from the board of health, and over 30 cartloads of refuse matter dumped at a secluded point into the sea.

During Captain Davison's absence I directed that a quantity of disinfecting solution be placed in the manholes and storm drains throughout the city, removing a disagreeable odor caused by a temporary dry spell. Taking it altogether, this city is arriving at a stage of fair sanitary condition.

I inclose copy of an interesting report of Captain Davison to the adjutant-general upon the sanitary condition of Ponce, representing

conditions which I have already reported to you. It is hoped that favorable action will be taken to relieve the bad sanitary condition of that city. The playa or port is located 3 miles away from the city proper, and I concurred in the recommendation that it be placed under the supervisory care of Assistant-Surgeon Lavinder of this Service.

Respectfully, yours,

A. H. GLENNAN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S. In Command.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

OFFICE OF BOARD OF HEALTH,
San Juan, Porto Rico, April 4, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that pursuant to verbal instructions of the department commander I proceeded to Ponce by sea, on the 19th ultimo, to inspect the sanitary condition of that city. No well-digested methods of sanitation have been carried out at Ponce. This is due to the following causes:

Three different officers have at times been placed in charge of this important work during the preceding three months. These officers were relieved of little or no military duty, and hence could devote but a small portion of their time to the work.

The quartermaster's department was not called on to furnish such aid as it might well have given. No funds were allowed for necessary clerical work, detailed inspectors, and supervisors of labor.

First Lieut. H. E. Eames, Eleventh Infantry, was detailed for this work, relieving Captain Smith, Ninth Infantry, detailed on other duty. With Lieutenant Eames a careful investigation was made of the sanitary condition of the city.

Prevalent diseases—Smallpox.—About 50 cases were found in a detached frame structure being used as a field hospital. About 10 more were being isolated in their homes. Lack of intelligent methods was painfully evident. Had this disease been handled in accordance with scientific methods, there need not have been any smallpox scare in the Ponce district. As it was, there have been few deaths, the disease being generally mild in form. The conditions are improving; the people are being vaccinated and instructions have been given for the proper handling of the disease.

Typhoid is common, due to pollution of water supply, from the habit of leaving all refuse and excretions in and about the house, and absolutely no sewer system. The city being on a practically level plain, there is no surface drainage to speak of.

Consumption, here as elsewhere, is demanding a larger percentage of victims than any other one disease, and will continue to do so until the people learn to destroy the excretions of the patient, and to clean, disinfect, and repaint or whitewash all rooms in which this disease has been harbored.

Veneral diseases are common, mainly due to lack of proper methods and facilities for controlling prostitution.

Sanitation.—The only provisions for disposing of sewage are the cesspools and yards, and these are in a filthy condition. A systematic inspection must be made and recorded, and then followed by systematic work in cleaning them and keeping them clean. Where cesspools are used they must be ventilated.

Exterior police.—Where any attempt is made towards police of grounds the refuse is only partially removed and then too often dumped into the little stream that forces its way through stagnant pools into the sea, running along the windward side of the city and through it. A dumping ground must be established to the westward of the city, this stream must be cleaned out, its course regulated, and no foul matter be allowed to enter it. The latrines of the Nineteenth Infantry barracks are on the banks of this river, above the city.

The public works furnish a moderate supply of water to this city, but little or no attempt is made to guard its source from pollution. The sewer system is the one urgent need of Ponce. All other sanitary projects in the island should be subordinated to this construction. Steps should be immediately taken to procure the proper plans and the cost of this work. In this connection a board of experts to pass upon the question of water supply and sewerage for the whole island is recommended, the work to begin at Ponce.

The officer in charge of sanitation should be detached from all other duty so that he may devote his whole time to this work. At least \$3,000 should be immediately turned over to him to be expended under proper supervision in a systematic educative campaign against the filth in which these people are now living.

The sanitation of the city of Ponce should be separated as much as possible from the sanitation of the Playa, where the Marine-Hospital surgeon may be trusted to carry out

this work. These people have been living in filth so long that they have become habituated to its results. It is hardly to be expected that they will provide money to remedy evils not clearly seen by them. Let the Government once show them what can be done by a judicious expenditure of money in this direction, and they will begin to realize the conditions, and ultimately carry on the work from their own educated sense of necessity.

Respectfully, yours,

L. P. DAVISON,

Captain Fifth Infantry, In Charge of Sanitations.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL, *Department of Porto Rico, San Juan, Porto Rico.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

Circular relative to tuberculosis in Porto Rico.

[Translated in this Bureau from copy officially forwarded.]

It having come to the notice of the board of health that the percentage of deaths from tuberculosis in the Island of Porto Rico exceeds that of any other disease, with the intent of diminishing the mortality from this disease, occasioned by contact, direct or indirect, with infected persons, the board resolves:

(1) That all houses which have been occupied by a person sick of tuberculosis be thoroughly disinfected, the walls and floors being scraped and newly painted or white-washed under direction of an employee of the board of health.

(2) That the personal effects of a patient dead of tuberculosis be carefully disinfected, those which can not be utilized being burned.

(3) That these resolutions be made known to all physicians on the island and published in the National Gazette for general information.

NOTE.—Physicians who have attended or have certified with regard to a person dead of tuberculosis are directed to report to the sanitary authority, in order to the carrying out of these requirements.

Report of immigration at New York for the week ended April 8, 1899.

OFFICE OF U. S. COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION,
Port of New York, April 11, 1899.

*Number of alien immigrants who arrived at this port during the week ended April 8, 1899;
also names of vessels and ports from which they came.*

Date.	Vessel.	Where from.	No. of immigrants.
Apr. 2	Steamship Siberian	Glasgow.....	41
Do....	Steamship Lucania.....	Liverpool and Queenstown.....	618
Do....	Steamship Neustria.....	Naples.....	791
Apr. 3	Steamship La Champagne.....	Havre.....	553
Do....	Steamship New York.....	Southampton.....	242
Apr. 4	Steamship Augusta Victoria.....	Genoa and Naples.....	651
Apr. 5	Steamship Southwark.....	Antwerp.....	220
Do....	Steamship Amsterdam.....	Rotterdam.....	199
Do....	Steamship Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse.....	Bremen.....	509
Apr. 6	Steamship Furnesia.....	Glasgow.....	296
Do....	Steamship Spartan Prince.....	Naples.....	907
Do....	Steamship Weimar.....	Bremen.....	406
Do....	Steamship Werkendam.....	Rotterdam.....	20
Apr. 8	Steamship Britannic.....	Liverpool and Queenstown.....	360
	Total		5,813

THOMAS FITCHIE,
Commissioner.